

STATUS OF CLAIMS

1. **(Previously Amended)** A process of agglomerating metallic ore, said process comprising commingling said metallic ore with a moistening effective amount of water, a binding effective amount of a polymer selected from the group consisting of guar, guar derivatives and mixtures thereof, and a binding effective amount of a weak acid selected from the group consisting of citric acid, malic acid, tartaric acid and mixtures thereof to produce a mixture and forming said mixture into agglomerates.
2. **Previously Deleted.**
3. **(Previously Amended)** The process of Claim 1 wherein said metallic ore is iron.
4. **(Original)** The process of claim 1 wherein said polymer is comprised of at least two polymers.
- 5-6. **Previously Deleted.**
7. **(Original)** The process of claim 1 wherein said polymer and said weak acid together are about 0.01 to about 1.0 wt. % of said mixture.
8. **(Previously Amended)** A process of agglomerating iron ore, said process comprising commingling said iron ore with a moistening effective amount of water, a binding effective

amount of guar and a binding effective amount of citric acid to produce a mixture and forming said mixture into agglomerates.

9. **Previously Withdrawn.**

10. **Previously Deleted.**

11-12. **Previously Withdrawn.**

13-14. **Previously Deleted.**

15-16. **Previously Withdrawn.**

17. **(Previously Amended)** A process of agglomerating metallic ore, said process comprising commingling said metallic ore with a moistening effective amount of water, a binding effective amount of a polymer selected from the group consisting of guar, guar derivatives and mixtures thereof and a binding effective amount of the salt of a weak acid₁ to produce an agglomerating mixture and forming said mixture into agglomerates.

18. **Previously Deleted.**

19. **(Previously Amended)** The process of Claim 17 wherein said metallic ore is iron ore.

20. **(Previously Amended)** The process of Claim 17 wherein said salt of a weak acid is selected from the group consisting of salts of citric acid, salts of tartaric acid, salts of malic acid, salts of fumaric acid, salts of lactic acid and mixtures thereof.

21. **(Previously Amended)** The process of Claim 17 wherein said polymer and said salt of a weak acid together are about 0.01 to about 1.0 wt.% of said agglomerating mixture.

22. **Previously Withdrawn.**

23. **Previously Deleted.**

24-26. **Previously Withdrawn.**

27-36. **Previously Deleted.**

37-40. **Previously Withdrawn.**

41. **(Previously Added)** The process of Claim 1 wherein said guar derivative is selected from the group consisting of carboxymethyl guar, hydroxypropyl guar and mixtures thereof.

42. Previously Withdrawn.

43. (Original) The process of Claim 17 wherein said guar derivatives are selected from the group consisting of carboxymethyl guar, hydroxypropyl guar and mixtures thereof.

44-46. Previously Withdrawn.

47. (Previously Added) A process of agglomerating metallic ore, said process comprising commingling said metallic ore with a moistening effective amount of water, and adding to the ore a binder comprising a binding effective amount of a polymer selected from the group consisting of guar, guar derivatives and mixtures thereof, and a binding effective amount of a weak acid selected from the group consisting of citric acid, malic acid, tartaric acid and mixtures thereof to produce a mixture and forming said mixture into agglomerates.

49. (Presently Added) A process of agglomerating metallic ore, said process comprising commingling said metallic ore with a moistening effective amount of water, a binding effective amount of a polymer selected from the group consisting of guar, guar derivatives and mixtures thereof, and a binding effective amount of a weak acid selected from the group consisting of citric acid, malic acid, tartaric acid and mixtures thereof, but wherein the commingling occurs in the absence of both (1) an alkali metal salt of carboxymethyl cellulose or carboxymethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose and (2) sodium tripolyphosphate, to produce a mixture and forming said mixture into agglomerates.

49. (Previously Added) A process of agglomerating metallic ore, said process comprising commingling said metallic ore with a moistening effective amount of water, a binding effective amount of a polymer selected from the group consisting of guar, guar derivatives and mixtures thereof and a binding effective amount of the salt of a weak

acid, but wherein the commingling occurs in the absence of both (1) an alkali metal salt of carboxymethyl cellulose or carboxymethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose and (2) sodium tripolyphosphate, to produce an agglomerating mixture and forming said mixture into agglomerates.